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*Surgeon General Moore*  
*With most grateful Esteem*  
*Clara Barton*

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REPORT OF  
RED CROSS HOSPITAL,



AT NATIONAL DRILL <sup>and</sup> ENCAMPMENT,

Camp George Washington, May 23-30, 1887.



OFFICIAL REPORT  
OF THE  
RED CROSS HOSPITAL,

AT  
CAMP GEORGE WASHINGTON,

MAY 23-30, 1887,

WASHINGTON, D. C.,

BY

CLARA BARTON,  
*President of the American National Association of the Red Cross.*

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PUBLISHED BY THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF THE RED CROSS, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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WASHINGTON :  
RUFUS H. DABY, PRINTER.  
1887.

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# REPORT.

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TO THE PEOPLE OF WASHINGTON AND OTHERS INTERESTED :

The kindly courtesy and co-operation extended by the citizens of Washington to myself as president of the National Red Cross, during its part in the hospital of the late Military Drill and Encampment, have rendered it a pleasure as well as duty, to make some report of the work done, and the causes which led to it.

Having been for many years a resident of this city, making it always the central point of any work in which I am engaged, I have naturally all the interests of citizenship in its welfare, confessing also to a degree of laudable pride in its good name and fame abroad.

When, a few months ago, I learned that a camp, composed of the National Guard of the country, was to be formed here, to engage in competitive drill under the supervision of regular army officers, I thought it instructive and useful. If armies must exist, and nations and peoples must still depend upon them for defence, it were well that the knowledge gained by the bitter and terrible experience of the late war be, so far as possible, transmitted to those who must follow with only theory in place of practice.

Here was to be brought together a body of 5,000 to 8,000 men, from every State and Territory in the Union ; men from cultured homes, accustomed to all the comforts of settled life, sheltered rooms, good beds, well-selected food, regular habits of occupation and rest, and directly following a journey of one thousand to two thousand miles, to be camped out around "Potomac Flats," under single canvas, subject to the strict regulations of an actual camp of soldiers, under the stern military discipline of an army camped for march or battle, with all the excitement of competitive drill, and to compete as for their lives.

As usual, in all phases of war, the fact had been overlooked, that drilled men, in spite of all their automatic precision of step and motion, were still flesh and blood, and could suffer ; and it seemed still harder to realize that men only "playing soldier" could become really ill, and actually need care and attendance ; and when I learned, that owing to this general misconception, no provision for an active hospital service had been made, and none contemplated, I became alarmed, not only for the prospective condition of the troops, but for the encampment, and reputation of the city as well.

True, the appointment of the regular medical and surgical staff for the general supervision of the camp had been most worthily made. Sick call would be promptly held at eight o'clock each morning ; but for



the unfortunate soldier who must answer it, there was to be no place but his mess tent; nurse nor attendant, save his busy unskilled comrades, who must necessarily stand in the ranks; provision nor quiet beyond the restless turmoil of a boisterous camp of soldiers. Where would the kind-hearted, perplexed surgeon-in-chief send his sick charges? How dispose of the weary waiters at his tent; and when parade, march and drill brought their victims from the ranks to the ground, who was to take them, and where? Were they to lie and die in camp; be brought to corner drug-stores for a like fate, or lingering, seek shelter in the various city hospitals after neglect and hardship had rendered them hopeless, and a howl of honest indignation go out over the entire country at the heartlessness of the city which could thus plan for itself a national amusement without provision, care or thought for the welfare of the invited guests who came at its bidding? "What were the managers of the Drill and the people of Washington thinking of? And the Red Cross, with its central committee, headquarters, warerooms, and all in Washington—what was *it* doing?"

True enough; and what answer were any of us to make when thus arraigned? The trouble once upon us there would be no escape, and perhaps having permitted it to come, there should be none.

The arrangements for the encampment itself had been

carefully and well made, and have, I believe, elicited commendation from all; and one mentions with delicate hesitancy, that in the multitude of attendant cares, an actual hospital service had not been thought of.

It was perhaps the place of the Red Cross to move, as being in its direct line of action, and educationally its duty to bring to the observation and knowledge of these military bodies, the latest and most improved methods of caring for, and saving the sick and wounded of armies; methods held of such importance as to have become the subject of international treaty, and in themselves to-day, no less a feature in military progress than the improvement of firearms as a means of quick and terrible destruction. After consultation, our apprehensions were communicated to the office of the Surgeon-General, and by its efficient officers made known to the managers of the Drill. No words of mine can do justice to the prompt action taken by these gentlemen when once their attention was directed to the situation. General Manager De Leon, himself breaking down from overwork and thought, came commissioned by General Ordway, to ask of the Red Cross that it take the direction of creating and conducting a hospital upon the grounds of the encampment, that I, as its head, take personal supervision of the same, appointing my medical staff, nurses and attendants; that we assume all responsibility and liabil-

ities, beyond cost of medicines and the erection of the tents as for the camp in general.

It does not remain for me to inform you that this proposition was accepted for the Red Cross, and but few words are necessary to say in what manner the trust was fulfilled; for it was done in broad day, with open tents and records, in full view of the entire city and its thousands of visitors. Through day and night, sun and cloud, wind and rain, we were never from your sight, and never from our posts.

The first step was the selection of medical director, and when I write the name of Dr. J. O. Stanton as having accepted that appointment, I am certain of the congratulations of the entire city. *You* know how efficiently, faithfully, and well he would strive to do. *I* know how more than well he succeeded. All that ability, skill, and wide experience could bring to his charge, were there.

Under his supervision and with the concurrence of General Ordway, most admirable grounds for a hospital were selected, and twenty tents erected, comprising dining tent, kitchen and wards, together with a "Red Cross Duckers barrack" for dispensary and medical headquarters. It was the determination of both Dr. Stanton and myself, to establish and conduct a thorough army hospital as though in active service at the field, requiring the same prompt attention on the part of atten-

dants, and instituting throughout, the same discipline; both the welfare of the patients, and the instruction of nurses required this. With such purpose, Dr. Stanton, as medical director, proceeded to appoint his surgical force:\* nineteen from among the leading physicians of the city, six of whom had been army surgeons, were invited to a place upon his staff. Twelve to alternate each other in the direct charge of the hospital, having always one on duty day and night. Six in charge of the ambulance and stretcher corps, attending every parade, march, or drill, and one to act as executive officer.

Through the kindly courtesy of the Hon. Secretary of War and Surgeon-General, we were enabled to supplement this force by the addition of two most faithful and competent hospital stewards† from headquarters. No words could add to the credit of the record which the estimable service of these gentlemen won for themselves. I have seen many an army division of twenty thousand men, entering battle, which would have felt itself rich with two-thirds of the medical and

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\*Dr. J. O. Stanton, Medical Director; assistants—Dr. I. C. Ross, Dr. G. B. Harrison, Dr. Harrison Crook, Dr. James T. Young, Dr. Thomas F. Mallon, Dr. Thomas B. Hood, Dr. J. W. Bayne, Dr. Lachlan Tyler, Dr. W. H. Hawks, Dr. H. L. E. Johnson, Dr. D. P. Wolhaupter, Dr. H. A. Robbins, Dr. F. C. Fernald, Dr. M. H. Cuthbert, Dr. George C. Ober, Dr. Olin Leech, Dr. H. M. Cutts, Dr. S. W. Powers, Dr. W. E. Handy.

†Hospital stewards—F. M. Marshall, G. M. Weed,

surgical force of Dr. Stanton's staff, and one-third of our hospital accommodations would have been princely; and when these twenty-two gentlemen presented themselves and received the insignia which entitled them to work under the Red Cross, it really seemed a formidable array of medical power for a hospital without a patient, and doubtless provoked many an incredulous smile from our pleasant-natured community (for I always maintain that Washington leads the world in genial good-heartedness), who could scarcely conceive how that hospital should ever have a patient.

One little week later, these surgeons had diagnosed and treated 186 cases of illness as varied in character as their patients themselves, dressed 12 accidental wounds, and watched through many an anxious hour the cases which threatened serious results. The ambulance had rushed in with 44 cases of sunstroke, and those two indefatigable hospital stewards had put up 306 prescriptions, and personally met and aided every patient able to reach the dispensary, either assisting him to his bed in the hospital tents, or back to his command if able to return. Every attention which could be shown every consolation which could be afforded, every kindness which could be offered to the sick and suffering stranger within our gates, had been joyfully rendered and gratefully received. Every life had been preserved and every man was safely on his way home ready to

publish to the uttermost bounds of the country, the generous hospitalities extended to him at the Capital of the Nation. I think all will concede that our city physicians might have been worse employed during this week, especially as no one thereby either relinquished or neglected his ordinary practice.

The next step, and no less important in the formation of a hospital service, was the selection of nurses. Rightfully to the well-known organization of "Army Nurses," under the leadership of its honored and beloved president, Miss Harriet Dame, belonged the place of honor. This was generously accepted, and its active members, to the number of twenty, took place upon the staff.

It was a beautiful sight—the easy grace with which these women after twenty years of retirement took up again their accustomed work. Every duty seemed stereotyped, every motion trained. The tent was home, visions of the old days and nights came back, and many a tear for dear memory's sake fell over faces less smooth and fair, but none the less tender and true, than when twenty years ago they left home and friends, dared hardship, danger and death, perilling all for the love of the Master and humanity.

The next to be invited was our younger and still larger body of "trained nurses," to the number of fifty.

These, at the instance of their able and faithful president, Dr. Murphy, of Columbia Hospital, unanimously

volunteered for either continuous or alternate service, and took place upon the staff. Of these women, it is not enough to say that they did full credit to the teaching they have received, and that in no instance did they fail. One discovers in them a devotion to duty, an adherence to principle, a self-forgetfulness and spirit of sacrifice, which no teaching could create. The noble nature was there before the instruction, and through it, largely, they have sought the profession they wear.

Permit me, I pray you, friends, to commend to you this fraternity of women; to ask for them your consideration, confidence, patronage, encouragement and care. They deserve it. They have entered upon lives of hardship, toil, and self-abnegation, to lessen the woes of others; let us not forget to help them to bear their own.

As Superintendent of Nurses, it was my fortunate privilege to appoint Dr. Susan A. Edson, one of the first women in America to wear the title of M. D. Serving as nurse in field and hospital throughout the war, and before the memory of whose chosen and honored service, when the black pall of martyrdom and death lay over all the land, our heads are bare, and our hearts are still.

The above-named persons comprised our hospital service for the encampment. Shall I enumerate? In charge, Clara Barton, assisted by Dr. J. B. Hubbell, general field agent of the Red Cross; Mr. A. S. Solo-

mous, vice-president, and the National Executive Committee; Medical Director, Dr. J. O. Stanton, with a staff of nineteen surgeons, and two hospital stewards; Superintendent of Nurses, Dr. Susan A. Edson, with twenty "army nurses," and fifty members of Training School for Nurses; Miss Mary Vandersall, chief nurse, and Mr. Charles Foster ward master; thus constituting a body of ninety-two physicians and nurses, every one ready for duty, and understanding how to perform it.

From the 23d to the 30th May, inclusive, was the space of time allotted for the encampment. The air was full of the noisy din and stir of soldier life; battalion after battalion marched into camp with music and shout, but above and beyond all lay the hospital, ominous and still as a summer afternoon that waits the bursting of the storm.

At noon of the 23d, the graceful unfolding of the American flag from the top of its staff one hundred and fifty feet above headquarters, announced that Gen. Auger had taken command; that the camp was open and ready for action.

Five minutes later, the folds of the "American Combination Red Cross Flag," floating out from its staff in front of the hospital, announced that it was also ready; and as we gathered under that banner of universal humanity, and I spoke to those about me the few words of charge I had to give—that they save, serve



and forbear, and that they love one another, the peace of Heaven seemed to settle down upon all hearts, never to be broken by a ripple of discord nor discontent; not a murmur of complaint from any lip, till, with tearful eyes, we took again each other's hands at parting; every duty done, every life preserved, every comrade safely on his way home. The peaceful banner was folded away, but we left a sign upon every arm, as a testimony to all nations and peoples of the earth, that the wearer thereof was known and counted worthy to work in the relief of that direst of woes which has enveloped the world in terror and misery since the earliest history of man. This is the first time the Red Cross badge has been dispensed in this country; our physicians and our nurses are the first to receive it. They wear it, as they should, proudly and gladly as an earnest of that love for humanity for which the good have always been ready to suffer, and the Great Leader gave his life.

The Red Cross means people's help for military and national necessities, and not, as is generally understood or rather misunderstood, national help for people's necessities. When the Red Cross moves it is always the people who come to its aid and fill its hands. With this view, when we found our own warerooms lacking some furnishings required in the sudden equipment of an entire hospital, we asked of you about us to come to the rescue

with the needed articles. The readiness with which our requests were met, although but slightly comprehending their significance, and always believing that nothing would be needed, that the hospital like the Drill, "was only for show," is but another added proof of the willing natures of our citizens.

We arranged for one hundred patients, a few words in regard to the details of which, may not be without interest as something in which yourselves took generous part.

Upholstered cots were rented, and for the snowy sheets and pillow-slips with which to dress them, let me return grateful thanks to Columbia Hospital, with its veteran doors ever open to the calls of humanity; to Dr. Godding, of St. Elizabeth's, and to Mr. and Mrs. Stoughtenberg, of the City Hospital who not only sent, but came to bring; to the kindness of Messrs. Beveridge and Boteler for delf; to Mr. Hoeke for medicine-cases; for chairs to Mr. Towles, and Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Spencer, who, out of the scarcely cold ashes of their own, could still supply; to the Howard, Willard's and Riggs House, for each a dinner for our corps of helpers, and to the latter-named for every proffer of assistance which a generous nature could devise; to Miss Snow for the origin and charge of a flower mission which literally transformed our wards into conservatories, and one looked over barricades of roses and lilies

to the pale faces beyond ; to Mr. Wm. Saunders, of the Agricultural Department, for rare blooming plants ; to the honorable Secretary of War for the order of an ambulance and driver ; to Col. Batchelder and Dr. Morton, of the Quartermaster's Department, for awnings and laborers ; to the Independent Ice Company for the voluntary proffer of abundant ice for the hospital during the entire time—the gratitude of many an overpowered and fevered patient must be their thanks ; to Dansville Sanitarium, N. Y., for one hundred pounds of its wonderful Granūla ; to the “ Cerealine Company,” of Columbus, Ind., for abundant quantities of that delightful article of food for sick or well, together with competent agents to prepare it—no better fortune could befall a hospital ; to the “Ducker Portable Barrack Company,” N. Y., through the courtesy of its accomplished agent, Wm. H. Hanna, for the use of a “ Red Cross Ducker barrack ” for dispensary ; to Mr. R. D. O. Smith for excellent photographic views ; to Mr. J. F. Page for loan of oil-stoves for cooking ; to Mr. A. E. Cook and Mr. G. W. Fitts for disinfectants of great service to us ;\* to Mr. Gilbert D. Fox for generous donation of “ Wright's Pond Lily Toilet Wash,” which at this day needs but its name to speak its praise ; to Mr. Toler for use of folding cots, tables and chairs ; to Gen. John B. Dennis, commander of National Guard of Dakota, for helpful co-operation ; to Mr. John H. Stafford, of Massachusetts, for valuable and ready

assistance; and to the thousands who came, day by day, to view our work and bid us speed, our thoughts go out in grateful remembrance.

To the press of the city we beg to return most grateful acknowledgments for kindly attention and excellent reports; its good words were strengthening and helpful, and even its *Critic-cisms*, generously provided for the amusement of the art-loving public, might have been more harmful.

I have elsewhere given, in part, the number of patients treated in the hospital; you will pardon, if I quote them here as a whole:

Entire number nursed in wards during the week . . . .	83
Number diagnosed and treated . . . .	186
Number of wounds from accidents surgically dressed . . . .	12
Number of sunstrokes . . . .	44
Number of prescriptions prepared . . . .	306

And to the credit of the camp, it affords me pleasure to state, that not one of these cases was due to the use of liquor. Our records show not one case of alcoholism.

And in this connection, may I be pardoned a word in relation to the camp itself, and the character of the men who fell under our charge. Of the former, only its soldierly bearing and thorough work marked it as a soldiers' camp; for any unseemly conduct, so generally looked for, it might have been a camping party of pleasure.

Of the latter, our patients, soldierly, brave, uncomplaining, gentlemanly men, from all sections and quarters of the country,—if they have taken away with them pleasant memories, they have left the same. The manly tear brushed away at parting, revealed unmistakably the grateful cultivated spirit that prompted it. And the beautiful letters with far-distant post-marks, daily finding their way from mother, wife, or sister, to the patient hands which so carefully nursed, reminds only too ominously who would have been hurt by any unfortunate neglect; and along with these, our gratitude goes out to the brave-hearted women and high authorities, who sought, so far as possible, to “deliver from temptation,” and if their white ribbon fluttered near our Red Cross, who shall say it nay?

I am happy to say that Dr. Stanton will, later, make a full medical report of the hospital, of which the most accurate records were kept; and we hope, also, for a report from Dr. Edson, of the efficient and interesting department under her charge.

With the exception of three dinners, and some gifts of thoughtful friends, our food was provided and prepared by ourselves. All persons occupied upon the premises, as surgeons, stewards, nurses, attendants, and workingmen, found place at our tables, where an average of one hundred and twenty-five meals per day were served. The food for the patients was prepared by their nurses and taken to the wards.

If I fail in expressing what is due to all persons connected with the management of the encampment, it is because I cannot find the proper terms, and more especially is this true of its immediate commanding officer, General Ordway, whose competency and kindness were the theme of all.

The utmost sympathy was felt for Manager De Leon who, worn out, and overborne, fell in the march before the day was done.

Notwithstanding a week of almost incessant rain, we believe our hospital to have been in every way a success. We feel that its example will not be lost on future military gatherings; and that it was not unappreciated by others seems substantiated by the following passage from General Order No. 18, of the commander-in-chief, Gen Augur, which we take the liberty to insert: \* \* \*

[From General Order No. 18.]

“CAMP GEORGE WASHINGTON.

“The General commanding also tenders his thanks to the Red Cross Association, for the very efficient hospital service they have maintained in the camp and on the march. It has been a commendable illustration of the purposes for which the Red Cross Association was established, and a valuable exposition of its object and operation.

“By command of Major-General AUGUR:

“JAMES B. CARNAHAN,

*“Brigadier-General and Adjutant-General.”*

From the unavoidably personal nature of this report, I submit it with hesitancy. If among our townspeople it should be felt that any credit is due, please give it to the Red Cross, and those who grandly came to serve and help it. And for myself, I pray you say only that I worked in a good cause and was fortunate in my appointments.

Respectfully submitted by request of the Executive Committee of the National Red Cross Association.

CLARA BARTON,

*President.*



















